GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:414
ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016
Sand Mining
Gandhi Dr. Dharam Vira

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines on Sustainable Sand Mining Management issued in September 2015 have been implemented in various States and Union Territories;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with sand mining activities which took place on all the river banks in the country during the last as well as current year, State-wise;
(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which they are likely to be implemented; and
(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new policy that seeks to bring sand mining under its own ambit in order to put an end to continuous violations of environmental norms and to penalise those who violate them, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) has formulated Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines in September, 2015 to mitigate the environment impact of mining activities. The Guidelines, inter-alia, emphasize identifying the areas suitable for mining (the site of aggradation) and areas not suitable for mining (sites near infrastructures and prone to erosion); monitoring plans to evaluate the long-term effect of the mining activities both upstream and downstream of sand extraction sites and streamlining the process of impact assessment, environment management plan and environmental clearance in cluster situation.
The MoEF & CC has so far given 156 clearances; State-wise breakup of the environmental clearances accorded by MoEF & CC since 2006 is at Annexure. The MoEF & CC through its Regional Offices monitors the projects for compliance of environmental clearance conditions and also ensures the implementation.
The environment clearances are also issued by State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities for smaller leases from time to time. The responsibility for implementation of "Guidelines for Sustainable Sand Mining in the Country" is mainly with the State Governments and the project proponents to whom the environment clearances are issued.
(d) MoEF & CC has delegated powers to grant environment clearance to District Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (DEIAA). The DEIAA headed by the District Magistrate has been empowered to regulate sand mining as per provisions of the notifications and Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, 2015.

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Annexure

(Annexure referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (c) of the Unstarred Question No.414 to be answered on 17.11.2016 in the Lok Sabha regarding "Sand Mining")

S.No.	Project Details	No. of Environmental Clearances
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Haryana	28
3.	Uttar Pradesh	29
4.	Jharkhand	2
5.	Rajasthan	15
6.	Gujarat	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh	11
8.	Punjab	27
9.	Tamil Nadu	2
10.	Uttarakhand	32
11.	West Bengal	3
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
13.	Bihar	1
Total		156

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